Dear Howard, Specter's Sprague as House Committee counsel 10/4/76

If a guy named Pete with the Phila Daily News called you tonight, I did it to you. Here is the story:

Jack McKinney told him to call me. Jim had told me earlier that Sprague had been appointed. Bud had asked me about Sprague Sunday before yesterday. I then did not remember he had been Specter's assistant. Jim told me later.

When Pete asked me about Sprague, I asked him how he could possibly avoid having to investigate his former boss and said he could not run the House investigation without having to do this. He did not know that. I explained Specter's role.

This led us into the single-bullet theory and Specter; the medical evidence and Specter; the ballistics evidence and Specter; the missing evidence (like death certificate) and Specter; and to the significance of each item of evidence.

We talked for some time, with all the explanations he wanted.

He asked me toward the end ~~xxx~~ if I could recommend another responsible - I interrupted to say it just happens that the best is a Philadelphian...I gave him your number.

If he called you and uses you I think your folks will like it. If they send you a clip, I would like that, thanks.

While I did not recall that Sprague has been Specter's right bower, as I suppose I once did know, I have trouble believing that Bud and Downing and others didn't. Floyd called me later. He had discussed this with Cong. Burke last ~~Friday~~ Thursday.

Whether or not justified this will now, fuel other reports and suspicions. Today's Star, Jim tells me, has a long story asking if Bud is CIA. In his own inimitable way, intending humor with what is not funny, Bud added to this before a meaningless denial. (Only we prove negatives.) The story is credited to Capitol Hill News Service. Now it happens that also last Thursday, when I had not yet gotten home, I had a phone call from its Ann Gurlein. We know each other from when she was Jim McKinley's research assistant on the JFK part of his miserable series. She still has four rare books of mine. She said she'd call me at 7 and didn't. She called the next day and not since

Jim earlier had heard that the Marks outfit was working on this story, their idea being that the CIA is the source of Bud's wealth. (The way he spends it - on himself ?) I find myself wondering if they are with Gonzalez.

I can't prove Bud is or isn't. I am sure they do not pay what he has. I believe this all started with the crazy Skolnick and Weberman at Bud's crazy Georgetown conference of 1973. I do not ~~xxx~~ remember hearing it earlier. There are some even he thinks are crazy. They are the ones I know have called him CIA since their break.

This whole thing is M*A*D****!!!

Best,